

Contraband Dope a Major Problem for U.S., Mexico

By ALPHONZO BELL, Congressman, 28th District
 At 4:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, November 29, 1964, agents of the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department made the largest seizure of contraband marijuana in the nation's history.
 Seven hundred sixty-five pounds of the marijuana, concealed in the false top of a refrigerator truck, were confiscated in Hollywood in a joint action of the Federal Narcotics Bureau and the Los Angeles Police.
 The two law enforcement agencies had been cooperat-

ing in the investigation for three months. Their action on Nov. 29 followed by less than a week recovery of another 90-pound cache of marijuana which, according to authorities, was also destined for "local consumption," in the Hollywood area.
 SMUGGLED across the border near Tijuana, the dope was described as Mexican grown. It demonstrated again that illicit traffic in narcotics between the United States and Mexico has become a major obstacle for American officials charged

with keeping this problem under control.
 Chief John E. Storer of the California State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement testified before a Senate Subcommittee in July, 1964, that Mexico has become the dominant supplier of narcotics to California users.
 He cited San Ysidro, Calexico, Tecate, and Andrade on the U.S. border as points of entry for the contraband. He also underscored significant changes in the origin and source of grown opium and manufactured heroin in the last 30 years.

PRIOR TO 1940 Mexico produced neither opium nor heroin. By 1950, when outlaw elements in Mexico began production, the Far East was still the most prevalent supplier to the United States. By 1960, according to Storer, 75 per cent of the heroin in California comes from Mexico.
 "Today," he says, "more heroin, more potent heroin, and cheaper heroin is available in Mexico than ever before."
 Other experts, whose comments we will consider in subsequent columns, consider Mexico more as a convenient supplier to sellers and customers in this nation than as a major producer. In any event the problem is becoming more serious. It deserves and will get closer scrutiny by this writer in the weeks ahead.

Police Chief Warns About Seasonal Burglary Threat

Torrance residents need to be especially alert and observant during December, Torrance Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig warned this week. Koenig said burglaries and thefts usually increase significantly during the holiday season.
 The increase, he noted, is due to the large number of homes left unlocked or unattended during the evening shopping hours. Koenig suggested shoppers leave a light burning at home and double check all locks before leaving home.
 Burglars look for dark homes, and often make inquiries of neighbors, Koenig

said. Such inquiries should arouse suspicion at once.
 The chief also warned shoppers to lock their cars when leaving them in lots or on the street.
 Koenig said many burglaries could be prevented if neighbors would make a telephone call to police when they observe suspicious persons in a neighborhood.
ATTENDS CONVENTION
 Rollin R. Smith of 1855 Torrance Blvd. attended a one-day session of the Veterinary Symposium on Canine and Feline Nutrition at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

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